AN AGONY OF DOUBT.

WHICH WAY WILL THE TRIBUNAL DECIDE Y

the Rights of States be Disregarded the Forms of Law Set Aside, or Will Commission Refuse to go Back of the urns in the (Florida Case?—The Part gos Will Yet Play in the Presidential

Orasses. as to the action of the Grand Comission in the case of Florida is still in order, but speculation, instead of narrowing down possibilities, is taking a much wider range than it did three days ago, and now we find ingenious Democrate who are ready to admit that the court will not go back of the broad seal of the State of Florida, who yet insist that in spite of this the Tripunal will count in electors of Samuel J. The and reject those of Hayes and Wheeler. If sir theory is difficult to comprehend, but it is tumes that the successor of one State government can undo at the pleasure the work of its predecessor.

cessor.

It has simply to allege, and secure some parties ruilings to sustain its allegations, that fraud has been practiced, when, presto, it becomes necessary to dislocate the entire constitutional machinery in order to satisfy the malcontents. If the theories of these individuals were carried out it would be necessary to set aside all forms of law, and let things run to suit themselves. It is noteworthy, however, that these outside people are inclined to take more latitude even than

on the inside, who are not slow, by any means, in elatining all that they can. Their opinions, therefore, do not count for much, except that they seem to indicate in the strongest possible manner that they feel the ground slipping from beneath their feet, and that they are clutching at everything that affords them the slightest hope with a desperation that illy assorts with their assertions that they believe the Tribunal will ultimately decide that Tulden is the man.

Biraws show which way the wind blows, and so do opinions help to form a conclusion as to a result. The general opinion of well-informed Democrats last inght seemed to be that the Commission would not go back of the Tribunal will ultimately decided that the their should be counted nevertheless. How they arrive at this conclusion is given above. On the other hand, the Republicans, equally well informed, are sure that THE CERTIFICATE OF THE GOVERNOR OF

who was qualified to certify to the election of electors at the time prescribed by the Constitution, and in the manner ordained by the Legislature of that State, will be accepted, which acceptance would result in Hayes and Wheeler receiving the four electoral votes of the first suspended State on the list. Meantime it is worth noting what is going on among the Democratic and Republican counsel. Although Field, who expresses himself more freely than any other Democrat connected with the management of the case before the Tribunal at present, says publicly and privately that he is convinced that the Commission will go back of the returns, the has also been heard to admit in unguarded moments that it will be necessary to fortify in

will be assisted, able lawyer as he is, by the entire strength of the Democratic counsel in framing his minority report in the Watts electorably case. Just how important a partials and the contest may be inferred from the action of Samuel J. Tilden, who has allowed his name to be mixed up in some very questionable money transactions in this very matter.

During the entire campaign, although this very matter.

During the entire campaign, although this very matter, and the contest of the contest of

on the 6th of December to advance \$15,000 to secure an elector in Oregon, he regarded it as highly important that he should have at least one in that State. Nothing has transpired since the 6th of December to make the necessity of securing a Tilden elector in a Republican State less urgent than it was then, oit may be taken for granted that the probability is as strong now of its being Watter or no Watts, as it was on the day that "Gabble" sent the mysterious dispatch from Oregon to Tilden at Gramercy Park. It may be well to state that the Republicans do not under-estimate the importance of the disputed electoral voice of Oregon, and that a majority report will be made to the Senate, which will exhaust.

though it may present some intricate law points, must utilimately be decided in favor of the Hayes elector.

To day the Tribunal will hear the concluding arguments on each side in the Florida case, which will be made by Evarts and O'Conor, respectively, when the members will hold a secret session for the purpose of daliberating and reaching a conclusion. Until then speculation may be indulged in by both sides.

REGULAR PROCEEDINGS.

Applications for admission to the auditorium Applications for admission to the auditorium of the Supreme Court-room on Saturday morning were very numerous, and the applicants importunate, it beling reported that Mesers. VOomon and Evaars would both address the Commission during the day's session. The demand was refused beyond the ureal number of tickets, which were sufficient to comfortably crowd the room, but not enough to supply one twentieth of the applicants.

the applicants.

The Commission was called to order at 10:25 by Justice Oristroon; all the members present. Judge CLIFFORD said under the third rule counsel should present the evidence they proposed to offer in a close, condensed and classified form; of course, bared upon the condition that evidence would be received. The question whether evidence should be received had not, however, been decided, but counsel would necessarily act upon the proposition as if evidence would be admitted until the Commission decided.

MR. O'CONON'S ADDRIBS TO WHE COURT.

After some discussion as to the mode of procedure, Mr. O'CONON triedy addressed the Commission, urging that the evidence should be admitted, the questions of its relevancy and effect being considered with the whole case. He then submitted his proposition of evidence: First, that both the Thides and Hayes electors met on the cho of December, and each cast their votes and forwarded the same to the seat of government. canvass, and the result of that can returns from the Hayes electors rejected certain returns from countles named, and that Humphreys was an

Judge BLACK was about to proceed to argue in support of the admissibility of the evidence, while Justice Clifforn prominded him that unless the other side objected there was no eccasion to argue it, and suggested that he yield to Mr. Evalue, the present as misunderstanding.

Mr. BLACK said there was a misunderstanding now. He did not understand the case.

Mr. EVARTS then proceeded to address the Commission, but was soon stopped, on the ground that he was a raise.

Mr. EVARTS then proceeded to provide the second of the case of the commission of th

quire whether or not it was a fraud. The Supreme Court had never held that a fraud had any force. In this case the fraudulent character of the claim of the Hayes and Wheeler electors was shown by the evidence, which every man and was shown again by the act of the Legislature, and again by the fact that the Governor—not the same man but the same officer—rveke the fraud, and gave the certificate to the true electors. More than that, the State had taken the usurpers by the throat and dragged them into court, and that court, of competent, jurisdiction, had heaved that court of court of the court over the New Jersey "broad scale," and the causes that led to the Buckshot war in Pennsylvania, and claimed that the precedents then established were applicable in this case, and justified the inquiry.

claimed that the precedents theil established were applicable in this case, and justified the inquirf.

Argument of Mr. Stanley Matthews.

Mr. STANLEY MATTHEWS followed on the other side. He said the election of a President region of a state of the said the selection of a President state. The people selected their electors, who were their representatives, to vote for whom, all things considered, they deemed the best once to serve as President and Vice President. The States had the power to select their electors through the Legislature, or to base it upon a slate on a single act, but a series of acts, consisting of the deposit of the ballot, the count, of the piace of voting, the county compliation and the final canvess of all the votes of the State, and the filling of the statement of the result formaried to the seat of the statement of the result formaried to the seat of Federal Government the State authority cassed. It became then a Federal question, and so this this Constitution prescribed the present of the seat of Federal Government the State authority cassed. It became then a Federal question, and so this this Constitution prescribed the present of the seat of Federal Government the State authority cassed. It became then a Federal question, and so this this Constitution prescribed the present of the present of the seat of

[See Fourth Page.]

Senate.

The Senate met at 10 o'clock, and recessed until nearly 12. The credentials of Hon. H. G. Davis as a Senator from West Virginia from March 4 were presented and filed. Also, the credentials of Albert Sammders as Senator-clect from Nebraska. The Senators were not in a mood to transact business; in fact, a majority of them were in the Supreme Court room, listening to the speeches before the Electoral Tribunal, and the Senate, therefore, shortly after 1 o'clock, took a recess until 10 o'clock Monday.

House of Representatives.

o'clock Monday.

House of Representatives.

On Wednesday evening the consideration of the resolution reported from the special committee on the Florids election was set for Saturday after the reading of the Journal, but as there was no Saturday in legislative contemplation the subject was postpoeder motion of Mr. Hopkins, until the first day after the Journal shall be read. This will throw the question over until the electoral tribunal shall have reported, and then the resolution will amount to nothing.

Although there were not a dozen members in the House, the body resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the legislative appropriation bill, which was completed before the adjournment. The bill was increased by several thousand dollars, whereat Mr. Holman was very angry. He tried hard to get the yeas and nays on the question of reducing the pay of Congressmen to \$4,500, but could not do so. He could not even muster force enough for a vote by tellers. But the members were ready enough to make a record on the reduction of the salary of the President after the 4th of March to \$25,000, which was the amount before the increase four years ago. The reduction was carried by 1250 to 47. Only seven Democrata voted to leave it at \$50,000, viz.: Hancock, of Texas; Hurd, of Ohio; Kehr, of Missouri; Jas. B. Retlly, of Pennsylvania; Stone, of Wisconsis; Waddell, of North Carolina, and Williams, of Delaware. The vote for reduction was made up of 101 Democrats, and 25 Republicans. It is expected that the Senate will concur in the reduction, for it will be remembered that they agreed with the House in passing a bill for that purpose, and which was vetoed by the President.

In the paragraph appropriating money for printing internal revenue stamps it was provided that the printing should be done in the Bureau of Engraving and Frinting, and under the rule which probibits the consideration of a spassed paragraph except by unanimous consent. So the lobby failed, and this work will be done here unless the Senates should

Promises of the Two Parties to Support the Bill New Before Congress—Will the New Highway to the Pacific be Opened—The Has-iness Interests of the South Imperatively Demand the Construction of the Road.

The Texas and Pacific railroad bill has the hearty opposition of a majority of Northern Democrats, who are afraid their constituents may charge them with favoring the South. Suppose the Southern Democrats should con-clude that their one hundred and thirty votes ought not to be cast for Northern measures less thay may be charged by their constitu-

Suppose the Southern Democrats should conclude that their one hundred and thirty votes ought not to be east for Northern measures lest they may be charged by their constituents with supporting men and measures that are opposed to their interests! What is the test of Democracy! Is it personal silegiance to leaders! That camout make a party. Is it adherence to party tenets! If so, the Democratic party, like the Republican party, is committed in its national platforms since 1856 to the support of Pacific raliroads.

The Democratic party in the Southern States, and outside of the South the Democratic party exists only in the cities of the North, is committed to the Texas and Pacific raliroad. The Legislatures of Southern States, and Chambers of Commerce in Southern cities, have requested members of Compress to support the bill. It is not a test of Democratic featty, but an overwhelming majority of the party is for it. Republicans can support it, because the American system of public works by the Government, advocated by Clay and the leaders of the Whig party, has been and is the policy of the Republicans. The opponents of this system are to be sound chiefly among Northern Democrats, and, here and there, a Southern Democrats, who can't find the word rallroad or telegraph is the Constitution of the United States.

ALEXANDER B. STEPHENS.

President Grant Calls Upon the Venerable Statesman—The ex-Vice President of the Confederacy Discusses the Topics of the Hour on His Dying Bed.

The President on Saturday afternoon called upon Aiexardor H. Stephens, who still lies dangerously ill at the National hotel, in this city. The last days of Mr. Stephens, for there is very little prospect that he will recover from his present illness, are watched by Mrs. Coleman, who is the daughter of John J. Crit-tenden, Kentucky's famous Senator. Some days ago the President, in conversa-tion with Mrs. Coleman, said to her that

tion with Mrs. Coleman, said to her that he would like to call upon Mr. Stephens if he were strong enough to see him. Mrs. Coleman intimated that he was, and that she felt Mr. Stephens would appreciate the visit. When the President entered the room of the dying ex-Vice President of the Confederacy When the President entered the room of the dying ex-Vice President of the Confederacy Mr. Stephens was too weak to even rise in his bed to receive him. After the salutation and exchange of couriesies which the occasion suggested, Mr. Stephens inquired particularly for Mrs. Girant, and then the conversation, which was very brief, turned upon the interesting and absorbing political topics of the time. Mr. Stevens said he felt that his life was drawing to a close, and that it was a cause of great consolation to him to know that the result of the Presidential contest would be a peaceful one, and that the hour of supreme peril to the country had passed away.

The President, in reply, said he was extremely thankful that events have been so shaped, and that from the moment the Commission was agreed upon peace was foreshadowed. President Grant then said that from now until the 4th of March the days were wearlsome to him, and he was anxious to escape from the cares and tribulations of office and would gladly lay down his power. "The next four weeks," said he, "will be very long to me, and I am impatient for the end." The conversation closed with an expression on the part of the President that he hoped to see Mr. Stephens soon again.

WASHINGTO DEC., MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5, 1877.

NICARAGUA OUTRAGES.

of the event, displayed wonderful histriosic power, and a voice of such rare sweetness, sympathy, melody and freshness, that har friends did not hesitate to predict a brilliant future for her if she should conclude to adopt the lyric stage as a profession. At her second appearance on Saturday night Miss Mills but strongly confirmed the favorable impressions she had produced. Her acting was more natural, and she seemed to have entirely recovered from that stage timidity with which all debulances are more or less possessed. She rendered the shale of the fifth set with unexpected spirit and force.

Miss Kaudman, as Siebel, sang very sweetly. It is a pith her voice should lack strength and volume. of the event, displayed wonderful histrionic

ume.

Mr. Morsell's Faust was, be it said to his praise, a wonderful improvement upon his previous attempt, and he would have done much better had he not been laboring under great embarrassment, which was quite natural after the atroclous manner in which his first efforts were pelted with abuse by the Sunday pop-gans. But, as it was, he did well, and none could help admiring his pluck, and feeling gratified at its being rewarded by his success.

and none could nerp admiring ins puter, and testing gratified at its being rewarded by his success.

Mr. Gannon was a tride hoarse, but sang the beautiful soles of Veleatine satisfactorily.

Mr. Keene, as Mephisiopheles, was afflicted with a bad coid, but, despite this serious obstacle, struggled manfully through his part, and discharged his role as well as could have been expected. His acting was excellent.

The chorus was under better control, and showed unmistakable evidence of long and frequent rehearsals. The children's bailet in the waits scene was again a pleasing incident of the performance. The opera was, in the whole, a success. The addience, although not large, was very select.

The shaughraus.

Mr. Dion Bouchcault begins a week's engagement at the National tonight, as Coas in his own play of the "Shaughraus." This is regarded, and deservedly, as Mr. Boucleault most successful creation. It has received the most flattering demonstrations of public favor wherever it has been played, both in this country and in Europe. It remains to be seen, however, what sort of support Mr. Ford's regular stock company will give him tonight. We are almost as enrious on this subject as we were to see the "Shaughraus". The rise inglet it was played at Wallack's Theatre two years ago.

THE LOUISIANA CHARGES.

J. H. MADDOX, THE EX-GOVERNMENT AGENT, AGAIN ON THE STAND.

The Much Talked of Letters Produced - They

The House Committee on the Privileges and

J. H. Maddox:

DEAN SIM: Understanding the political condition of matters here, from association with both political parties and a friend of the President, and Government officer, would it not be sensidered a part of your—to go at anose to Washington, with as little delay as possible, and piace before the President the condition and the pending dangers of the situation. Should you conclude upon prempt settion in the premises, allow the comment of the premises, allow the premise of the premise allows the premise of the premise

walls to senaron wast.

The letter from Wells to West, still scaled, was handed over, and the Senator naving come into the room opened and read it, as follows:

NEW ORLEARS, Nov. 21, 1876.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I regret much not seeing you when here, I wanted to say much to you

the purpose of making oracures, is that the Rapublican majorities might be reduced; that he ad a young man who was an expert at that kind of business, giving me to understand that it was his nephew, who was then a clerk on the Returning Bloard, by the name of Lettefield, who would make the adverse special best of the control of the co

State was introduced to him sometimes last statements of the City of the State was introduced to him sometimes of the state of the Republican party of the State was introduced to him sometimes last significant of the state of characteristic of the state of the Fourity of the State was introduced to him sometimes last significant of the state of characteristic of the state of the s

Maddox Dismissed the Service.

J. H. Maddox, the profile Radical-Democratic witness, who has been talling so much
about the Returning Hoard of Louisiana, was on
Saturitay told to take up his bed and walk out of
the employ of the Government, and in his place
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Weekly Financial Statement,

Naval Orders.

Lieutenant Henry C. Hunter, ordered to the receiving ship Colorado at New York; Lieutenant James M. Forsythe, detached from the Powhatan and placed on sizk leave; Lieutenant Chas. M. Antheny, from the receiving ship Wabash at Roston, and ordered to the Powhatan, Norfolk, Va.; Lieutenant Clinton K. Curtis, from the receiving ship Worcester, at Norfolk, Va., and placed on watting orders.

The "Rive Jackets" to Remain Here. The orders for several companies of United

Explosion and Fire in New York.

(By Telegraph to the National Bepublican.)

New York, Feb. 4.—A fire broke out tonight in the sub-cells: ct No. 285 Broadway, occupied by Marrin's Safe Company. Two explosions occurred, and five firemen were liqured
slightly by blown giass, the front windows being
blown ont. The heated and confined air caused
the explosions. The flooring, with heavy safes
on it, fell in. The Marvins estimate their loss at
\$15,000; inswed for \$10,000. The building is
owned by an Orphan Asylum, and is damaged to
the amount of \$2,000. The origin of the fire is
unknown.

Large Fire in Trenton.

[By Telegraph to the National Republican.]

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 4.—A fire broke out this afterneon in a building occupied for the housing of locomotive engines on the main track of the Pennsylvania railroad. The fire is supposed to have communicated to the roof from the cight first-class locomotives in the building at the time, all of which were more or less damaged. The damage is variously estimated from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

ACROSS THE OCEAN.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TUR-REY AND SERVIA AT AN END.

REY AND SERVIA AT AN END.

Active War Preparations Being Made-Russia Awaits the Answer of the Fowers-Turkey Anxious for War, and Insists Upon Guarantees, Which Servia Declines.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A dispatch from Bellgrade reports that the peace negotiations between the Servian agent and the Turking ambersador at Vienna have been broken off in consequence of the Porte's persistance in demanding guarantees, the nature of which it rafused to specify.

A dispatch from Rome says Owners. A dispatch from Rome says Owners. The nominal Ministers of War and commander of the popular army, has resigned in consequence of differences with Monsignor Simoni, the new Cardinal Secretary of State. Mr. Merry, the owner of Denesater, Thormanby and other famous horses, is dead.

The London Times says: Bussia having apparently determined to weaken Turkey by prolonged armaments, it is espected that a new and monacing diplomatic campaign will be undertaken. As to the rumor that Hussia is on the point of bridging the Fruth, the Times is of the opinion that operations in that quarter will be almost impossible until summer.

The Republican press of Paris is greatly ex-

impossible until stammer.

The Republican press of Paris is greatly excited because the Court of Cassation has given a decision affirming the judgment of a Besancon court in a libel suit which has an important peritties bearing. The suit was brought by a former member of one of the mixed commissions which were established after the completely of cited, and the translate were legals declaration that these tribunals were legals.

decision involves a declaration that those tribunals were legal.

In the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce on Sattriday the President said that the Sheffield manufacturers had only themselves to blame for the
loss of trade with America and the successful
American competition. Sheffield workmen had
not come up to the mark and style required by
customers and competition was successful because the Americans excelled in the rapidity of
labor-saving machinery.

The reports of the organisation of the Landsturn are denied in official circles in Bertin. The
North German Gazeffe reverts to the anti-German articles in the Revue Des Dus Mondes, and
any: These expressions are significant in France,
because the renewal of war against Ourmany is
considered by every one only a question of time,
and constitutes a permanent factor in all political
coliculations.

Crimes and Casualties—By Telegraph.

Crimes and Casualties - By Telegraph.

John Murray was arrested in Boston on Saturday on suspicion of having caused the death of his mother-in-law, Nancy Dempsey, in a quarrel on Friday night.

In the United States Circuit Court at New York, on Saturday, John Keily and John D. Befreen, who pleaded guilty to robbing the maintenance of the policy of